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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,206	11/12/2003	Gregory D. Williams	DRIA-148	5994
7590	09/16/2005			
Loren G. Helmreich Browning Bushman Suite 1800 5718 Westheimer Houston, TX 77057			EXAMINER SMITH, MATTHEW J	
			ART UNIT 3672	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/706,206	Applicant(s) WILLIAMS, GREGORY D.	
	Examiner Matthew J. Smith	Art Unit 3672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9Jan04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 4-9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Priebe et al. (3744562) in view of Burris et al. (6591915).

Priebe et al. disclose a casing hanger support assembly for supporting an inner casing string within a well containing an outer casing string comprising a casing hanger support housing 103 positioned along the outer casing string for supporting a casing hanger 109, the inner casing string, and tubing; the casing hanger secured to an upper end of the inner casing string for mating engagement with the casing hanger support housing; structure 106 for maintaining a desired pressure differential between an interior and an exterior of the outer casing string; a seal assembly 111 for sealing with the casing hanger support; and lockdown member 112 for fitting within a lockdown groove in an interior surface of the casing hanger support housing.

The reference also discloses a method of preventing rupture or collapse of a casing string in a well comprising: providing a casing hanger support housing along an outer casing string for supporting an inner casing string and a casing hanger; securing the casing hanger to an upper end of the inner casing string and axially connecting the casing hanger with the casing hanger support housing; maintaining a desired pressure differential between a space within the outer casing string and a space exterior of the

outer casing string; providing a seal assembly for sealing between the casing hanger and the casing hanger support housing; providing a lockdown member for fitting within a lockdown groove in an interior surface of the casing hanger support housing; and recovering production fluids from the well through a production tubing string interior of the inner casing string.

This reference does not disclose one of a rupture disk and a blowout plug in a wall of the casing hanger support housing, ceramic or metallic disk, or providing a rupture disk or a blowup plug in a wall of the casing hanger support housing.

Burris et al. present a metal rupture disk 26 in a wall of a housing and providing a rupture disk in a wall of a housing.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the Burris et al. burst disk in place of the Priebe et al. valve 106 in order to eliminate the valve and associated tubing and thus simplify the design.

Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Priebe et al. in view of Burris et al. as applied to claims 1 and 6, respectively, above, and further in view of Baker (2178845).

The combination discloses a burst disk in a hanger support but not blowout plug.

Baker shows a blowout plug 16 including a shear member 20 to release the blowout plug in response to a predetermined pressure differential.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a blowout plug for the Priebe et al. valve 106 in order to eliminate the valve and associated tubing and thus simplify the design.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-7034. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F, 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


David Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

MJS *MJS*
9 September 2005